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SA/RR

21 July 1958

Ch/E

Comments on Script Pattern for Intelligence Process Film

1. While the purpose of this proposed film is laudable, I think that the script pattern fails to carry out the intended purpose effectively, and, moreover, gives a quite misleading picture of the normal operations of ORR. It seems to me that the film's purpose could be carried out much better if it were built around the process of producing the regular annual NIE on the USSR, rather than around a SNIE of the kind described in the script. The scenes of violence as described on page 1 are not a particularly appropriate introduction to the normal intelligence process as carried on in the DD/I complex of CIA.

2. To someone who is familiar with the process of initiating and completing an NIE, the "Twenty-One Days of NIE-304" seem quite implausible. For example, it does not seem likely that:

a. the Watch Committee would get so excited about the CS report as described that it would call other CIA officials to work in the middle of the night. (p.3)

b. that the USSR would issue a decree in the form described. USSR decrees do not read like this, nor do they cite in the text the name of the individual responsible for their implementation. (Incidentally, a decree of this type would not be regarded as effecting an "economic reorganization"). (p.4)

c. that a Soviet newspaper would print a letter from a citizen complaining that certain areas had been declared out of bounds for hunters. (p.4)

d. that collection requirements would be levied in this situation. (p.6)

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e. that "books and periodicals" would be requested from libraries "in and out of Washington" in this situation. (p.8)

f. that ONE would conclude, on the evidence cited, that "there is a definite possibility of a regional revolt in the Georgian SSR against the severe demands placed on the population by the harsh terms of the recent Soviet economic decree"; that a decree of this type would be issued to cope with a "temporary shortage in agricultural products and consumer goods in various areas". (p.12)

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